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Applicant(s) : Marcus, Dwight
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COUDERT BROTHERS LLP
333 South Hope Street, Suite 2300
Los Angeles, California 90071
(213) 229-2900

Date of deposit: February 28, 2002


Jose Ramos

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Applications
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a preliminary amendment in the reissue application for issued U.S. Patent # 6,032,156 "System for Automated Generation of Media" filed April 1, 1998 and issued February 29, 2000. Please make the following amendments in the present application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

6. (Amended) The method of claim 5[,], wherein said media element [in an audiovisual clip] is a media clip, and at least one of said control tags contains transition information [indicating permitted transition points in said audiovisual clip].

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6[,], wherein at least one of said control tags contains a luminance range for a portion of said [audiovisual] media clip.

16. (Amended) The system of claim 15[,], wherein said media element is [an audiovisual] a media clip, and at least one of said control tags contains transition information [indicating permitted transition points in said audiovisual clip].

17. (Amended) The system of claim 16[,], wherein at least one of said control tags contains a luminance range for a portion of said [audiovisual] media clip.

23. (Amended) A method for verifying viewing and comprehension of a [unique] media program, comprising the steps of:
providing in [a unique] said media program a [unique] sequence of cues; and
receiving from a viewer of said [unique] media program information relative to said cues;
and
comparing said received information to said sequence of cues.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 23[,], wherein said step of providing [a unique] said sequence of cues comprises providing a [unique] sequence of visual cues in an audiovisual program.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 23[,], wherein said [visual] cues comprise icons.

30. (Amended) A method of creating [audiovisual] media programming from a plurality of stored [audiovisual] media elements, comprising the steps of:
automatically selecting from a database containing information concerning said

[audiovisual] media elements a plurality of said [audiovisual] media elements and automatically designating a temporal sequence for said selected [audiovisual] media elements[,]; and
automatically selecting [automatically] transitions for each of said [audiovisual] media elements.

36. (Amended) A system for creating [audiovisual] programming from a plurality of stored [audiovisual] media elements, comprising:

means for automatically selecting from a database containing information concerning said [audiovisual] media elements a plurality of said [audiovisual] media elements and automatically designating a temporal sequence for said selected [audiovisual] media elements[,];
and

means for automatically selecting [automatically] transitions for each of said [audiovisual] media elements.

Please add the following claims:

42. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein said transition information comprises:
a transition point.

43. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein said transition information comprises:
a transition type.

44. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein said transition type is a dissolve.

45. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein said transition type is a cut.

46. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein said transition type is a fade.

47. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of obtaining desired content information concerning an intended view of a the programming prior to said step of selecting, and employing said desired content information in said step of selecting.

48. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein said transition information comprises: a modification parameter wherein said modification parameter is used to modify a transition.

49. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of obtaining desired style information concerning an intended view of a the programming prior to said step of selecting, and employing said desired style information in said step of selecting.

50. (New) The method of claim 11 further comprising: deriving said selected information from said media assets.

51. (New) The method of claim 11 further comprising: automatically deriving said selected information from said media assets.

52. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein said transition information comprises: a transition point.

53. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein said transition information comprises: a transition type.

54. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein said transition type is a dissolve.

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66. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

assembling an automatically assembled media clip into said media programming.

67. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

obtaining psychographic information concerning an intended view of a the programming prior to said step of selecting, and employing said psychographic information in said step of selecting.

68. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting comprises:

filtering a first media element out of consideration for inclusion in said media programming wherein said filtering is performed by a mediating layer.

69. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said tags is a taxonomic tag.

70. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said tags is an attribute tag.

71. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said tags is a reusability tag.

72. (New) A system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored

media elements comprising:

a set of style data configured to store a stylistic approach for a user;

an interface layer configured to control behavior of an ancillary asset;

a program layer configured to define an asset type and core content description of an asset;

a template layer configured to define a template, wherein said template is used with said stylistic approach to select a set of selected media elements wherein said selected media elements are automatically assembled into said media programming;

a module layer configured to provide weighting factors for said asset, wherein said weighting factors determine a likelihood said asset will be used with said template; and
a clip layer configured to associate each of said plurality of stored media elements with a tag.

73. (New) The system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements of claim 72 wherein said template comprises:
an over-all outline of a subject matter to be contained in said media programming.

74. (New) The system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements of claim 72 wherein said template is associated with demographic information.

75. (New) The system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements of claim 72 wherein said tag is a content tag.

76. (New) The system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements of claim 72 wherein said tag is a demographic tag.

77. (New) The system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements of claim 72 wherein said tag is a style tag.

78. (New) The system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements of claim 72 wherein said tag is a control tag.

79. (New) A method of creating media programming comprising:
maintaining a database of media elements;
determining a set of attribute values for each of said media elements;

selecting a first media element with a first attribute value; and
assembling said first media element into a media program.

80. (New) A method of creating media programming comprising:
requesting a desired media item wherein said desired media item satisfies an attribute
parameter;
receiving a plurality of possible media items wherein each of said possible media items
satisfies said attribute parameter;
selecting a first possible media item automatically from said plurality of possible media
items;
integrating said first possible media item into a media program automatically; and
delivering said media program to a user.

81. (New) The method of claim 80 further comprising:
collecting an information item related to said user; and
selecting said attribute parameter using said information item.

82. (New) The method of claim 80 wherein said step of requesting is performed by
said user.

83. (New) The method of claim 80 further comprising:
preventing said user from directly accessing a database wherein said desired media item
is requested from said database.

84. (New) A method of creating aesthetically and structurally appropriate media
programming comprising:
collecting a plurality of media clips;

determining a media form of a first media clip wherein said media form is separate from a media content of said first media clip; and
selecting said first media clip based upon said media form for inclusion in said aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming.

85. (New) The method of claim 84 wherein said step of selecting comprises:
providing a template wherein said template specifies functional and aesthetic values desired from media clips to be assembled into said aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming and wherein said template does not specify media content.

86. (New) The method of claim 85 wherein a first aesthetic value is a key of music.

87. (New) The method of claim 85 wherein a first aesthetic value is a tempo of sound.

88. (New) The method of claim 85 wherein a first aesthetic value is a spectral distribution of audio energy.

89. (New) The method of claim 84 further comprising:
including a second media clip and a third media clip in said aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming wherein said second media clip contains audio media only and wherein said third media clip contains video media only.

90. (New) A method of creating media programming comprising:
profiling a viewer;
providing a first plurality of media clips;

concatenating a second plurality of media clips wherein said second plurality is selected from said first plurality to form said media programming; and
presenting said media programming to said viewer.

91. (New) The method of claim 90 further comprising:

receiving a query from said user, wherein said user has access to all of said first plurality of media clips only through an intermediary and wherein said media clips are not presented for browsing or in a list to said viewer; and

selecting said second plurality of media clips from said first plurality of media clips based upon said query.

92. (New) The method of claim 90 wherein said step of profiling comprises:

collecting a viewer history.

93. (New) A method of creating media programming comprising:

providing a plurality of media clips;

selecting a first media clip and a second media clip;

removing a first part of said second media clip;

removing a second part of said first media clip;

creating a transition between said first media clip and said second media clip; and

assembling said first media clip, said transition and said second media clip into said media programming.

94. (New) An aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming creation system comprising:

a plurality of media clips;

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a determiner configured to determine a media form of a first media clip wherein said media form is separate from a media content of said first media clip; and

a selection unit configured to select said first media clip based upon said media form for inclusion in a aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming.

95. (New) The aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming creation system of claim 94 wherein said step of selection unit comprises:

a template wherein said template specifies functional and aesthetic values desired from media clips to be assembled into said aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming and wherein said template does not specify media content.

96. (New) The aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming creation system of claim 95 wherein a first aesthetic value is a key of music.

97. (New) The aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming creation system of claim 95 wherein a first aesthetic value is a tempo of sound.

98. (New) The aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming creation system of claim 95 wherein a first aesthetic value is a spectral distribution of audio energy.

99. (New) The aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming creation system of claim 94 further comprising:

an inclusion unit configured to include a second media clip and a third media clip in said aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming wherein said second media clip contains audio media only and wherein said third media clip contains video media only.

100. (New) A media programming creation unit comprising:
a viewer profiler configured to profile a viewer;
a first plurality of media clips;
a concatenation unit configured to concatenate a second plurality of media clips wherein said second plurality is selected from said first plurality to form said media programming; and
a presentation unit configured to present a media programming to said viewer.

101. (New) The media programming creation unit of claim 100 further comprising:
a query receiving unit configured to receive a query from said user, wherein said user has access to all of said first plurality of media clips only through an intermediary and wherein said media clips are not presented for browsing or in a list to said viewer; and
a selection unit configured to select said second plurality of media clips from said first plurality of media clips based upon said query.

102. (New) The media programming creation unit of claim 100 wherein said viewer profiler comprises:
a collection unit configured to collect a viewer history.

103. (New) A media programming creation unit comprising:
a plurality of media clips;
a selection unit configured to select a first media clip and a second media clip;
a clip dividing unit configured to remove a first part of said second media clip wherein said clip dividing unit is further configured to remove a second part of said first media clip;
a transition creation unit configured to create a transition between said first media clip and said second media clip; and
an assembler configured to assemble said first media clip, said transition and said second media clip into said media programming.

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1. A method of creating media programming, comprising the steps of:
maintaining a database containing selected information about each of a plurality of media elements;
automatically selecting a plurality of said media elements in response to a request for media programming, and automatically selecting a temporal organization for said selected media elements, said temporal organization not being dictated by said selected information; and
assembling said media elements into media programming.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said media elements are audiovisual clips, and said media programming is an audiovisual program.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said media elements are still photographs, and said media programming comprises a series of said still photographs.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said selected information comprises content information relating to said media assets.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said selected information comprises a plurality of tags associated with each of said media elements, at least one of said tags being a content tag containing information relating to content of said media element, and at least one of said tags being a control tag containing information other than content information.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein said media element is a media clip, and at least one of said control tags contains transition information.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein at least one of said control tags contains a luminance range for a portion of said media clip.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of selecting further comprises selecting two elements based on said request, selecting a temporal order for said two elements, and determining based on information in said control tags whether said two elements may be assembled in the selected temporal order, and, if not, deselecting at least one of said two elements.

9. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of selecting further comprises selecting two elements based on said request, selecting a temporal order for said two elements, and selecting transitions for said two elements based on transition information associated with each of said elements and transition rules.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of obtaining demographic information concerning an intended view of a the programming prior to said step of selecting, and employing said demographic information in said step of selecting.

11. A system of creating media programming from a library of media assets, comprising:

a database containing selected information about each of said media assets;

selection means for automatically selecting a plurality of said media assets in response to a request for media programming, and for automatically selecting a temporal organization for said selected media assets, said temporal organization not being dictated by said selected information; and

assembling means for assembling said media elements into media programming.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein said media elements are audiovisual clips, and said media programming is an audiovisual program.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein said media elements are still photographs, and said media programming comprises a series of said still photographs.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein said selected information comprises content information relating to said media assets.

15. The system of claim 11, wherein said selected information comprises a plurality of tags associated with each of said media elements, at least one of said tags being a content tag containing information relating to content of said media element, and at least one of said tags being a control tag containing information other than content information.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein said media element is a media clip, and at least one of said control tags contains transition information.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein at least one of said control tags contains a luminance range for a portion of said media clip.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein said selecting means further comprises means for selecting two elements based on said request, means for selecting a temporal order for said two selected elements, means for determining based on information in said control tags whether said two elements may be assembled in the selected temporal order, means for deselecting at least one of said two elements if said two elements are not permitted to be assembled in the selected temporal order.

19. The system of claim 15, wherein said selecting means further comprises means for selecting two elements based on said request, for selecting a temporal order for said two elements, and for selecting transitions for said two elements based on transition information associated with each of said elements and transition rules.

20. The system of claim 11, further comprising means for obtaining demographic information concerning an intended viewer of the programming, said selecting means being adapted to employ said demographic information.

21. The system of claim 11, wherein said selection means comprises means for selecting fewer than all of said media elements responsive to said request.

22. The system of claim 11, wherein said selection means prevents a user from selecting or ordering said media elements.

23. A method for verifying viewing and comprehension of a media program, comprising the steps of:
providing in said media program a sequence of cues; and
receiving from a viewer of said media program information relative to said cues; and
comparing said received information to said sequence of cues.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said step of providing said sequence of cues comprises providing a sequence of visual cues in an audiovisual program.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein said cues comprise alphanumeric information.

26. The method of claim 23 wherein said cues comprise icons.

27. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of providing means for a viewer to transmit said information.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein said step of providing comprises incorporating with programming media a printed document to be completed and returned by a viewer.

29. The method of claim 23, wherein said step of receiving information comprises receiving information via telephone communications.

30. A method of creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements, comprising the steps of:

automatically selecting from a database containing information concerning said media elements a plurality of said media elements and automatically designating a temporal sequence for said selected media elements; and

automatically selecting transitions for each of said media elements.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein said step of automatically selecting transitions comprises selecting transitions independently for a video portion of said element and for an audio portion of said element.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein said transitions are selected based on information relating to permitted transitions associated with each of said elements.

33. The method of claim 30, wherein said transitions comprise fade out of a video portion of said element.

34. The method of claim 30, wherein said information comprises a range of permitted transition points at the beginning and end of a plurality of said elements.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein said information comprises an earliest permitted transition point, a default transition point, and a latest permitted transition point.

36. A system for creating programming from a plurality of stored media elements, comprising:

means for automatically selecting from a database containing information concerning said media elements a plurality of said media elements and automatically designating a temporal sequence for said selected media elements; and

means for automatically selecting transitions for each of said media elements.

37. The system of claim 36, wherein said means for automatically selecting transitions comprises means for selecting transitions independently for a video portion of said element and for an audio portion of said element.

38. The system of claim 36, wherein said transitions are selected based on information relating to permitted transitions associated with each of said elements.

39. The system of claim 36, wherein said transitions comprise fade out of a video portion of said element.

40. The system of claim 36, wherein said information comprises a range of permitted transition points at the beginning and end of a plurality of said elements.

41. The system of claim 40, wherein said information comprises an earliest permitted transition point, a default transition point, and a latest permitted transition point.

42. The method of claim 6 wherein said transition information comprises:
a transition point.

43. The method of claim 6 wherein said transition information comprises:
a transition type.

44. The method of claim 43 wherein said transition type is a dissolve.

45. The method of claim 43 wherein said transition type is a cut.

46. The method of claim 43 wherein said transition type is a fade.

47. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of obtaining desired content information concerning an intended view of a the programming prior to said step of selecting, and employing said desired content information in said step of selecting.

48. The method of claim 6 wherein said transition information comprises:
a modification parameter wherein said modification parameter is used to modify a transition.

49. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of obtaining desired style information concerning an intended view of a the programming prior to said step of selecting, and employing said desired style information in said step of selecting.

50. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
deriving said selected information from said media assets.

51. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
automatically deriving said selected information from said media assets.

52. The method of claim 16 wherein said transition information comprises:
a transition point.

53. The method of claim 16 wherein said transition information comprises:
a transition type.

54. The method of claim 53 wherein said transition type is a dissolve.

55. The method of claim 53 wherein said transition type is a cut.

56. The method of claim 53 wherein said transition type is a fade.

57. The method of claim 23 wherein said step of providing said sequence of cues
comprises providing a sequence of audio cues in an audiovisual program.

58. The method of claim 23 wherein said step of providing said sequence of cues
comprises providing a sequence of audio cues in an audio program.

59. The method of claim 23 wherein said step of providing said sequence of cues
comprises providing a sequence of visual cues in a visual program.

60. The method of claim 30 wherein said transitions comprise a dissolve.

61. The method of claim 30 wherein said transitions comprise a cut.

62. The method of claim 30 wherein said transitions comprise a fade of an audio portion of said element.

63. The method of claim 36 wherein said transitions comprise a dissolve.

64. The method of claim 36 wherein said transitions comprise a cut.

65. The method of claim 36 wherein said transitions comprise a fade of an audio portion of said element.

66. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
assembling an automatically assembled media clip into said media programming.

67. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
obtaining psychographic information concerning an intended view of a the programming prior to said step of selecting, and employing said psychographic information in said step of selecting.

68. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting comprises:
filtering a first media element out of consideration for inclusion in said media programming wherein said filtering is performed by a moderation layer.

69. The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said tags is a taxonomic tag.

70. The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said tags is an attribute tag.

71. The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said tags is a reusability tag.

72. A system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements comprising:

a set of style data configured to store a stylistic approach for a user;

an interface layer configured to control behavior of an ancillary asset;

a program layer configured to define an asset type and core content description of an asset;

a template layer configured to define a template, wherein said template is used with said stylistic approach to select a set of selected media elements wherein said selected media elements are automatically assembled into said media programming;

a module layer configured to provide weighting factors for said asset, wherein said weighting factors determine a likelihood said asset will be used with said template; and

a clip layer configured to associate each of said plurality of stored media elements with a tag.

73. The system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements of claim 72 wherein said template comprises:

an over-all outline of a subject matter to be contained in said media programming.

74. The system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements of claim 72 wherein said template is associated with demographic information.

75. The system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements of claim 72 wherein said tag is a content tag.

76. The system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements of claim 72 wherein said tag is a demographic tag.

77. The system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements of claim 72 wherein said tag is a style tag.

78. The system for creating media programming from a plurality of stored media elements of claim 72 wherein said tag is a control tag.

79. A method of creating media programming comprising:
maintaining a database of media elements;
determining a set of attribute values for each of said media elements;
selecting a first media element with a first attribute value; and
assembling said first media element into a media program.

80. A method of creating media programming comprising:
requesting a desired media item wherein said desired media item satisfies an attribute parameter;
receiving a plurality of possible media items wherein each of said possible media items satisfies said attribute parameter;
selecting a first possible media item automatically from said plurality of possible media items;
integrating said first possible media item into a media program automatically; and
delivering said media program to a user.

81. The method of claim 80 further comprising:

collecting an information item related to said user; and

selecting said attribute parameter using said information item.

82. The method of claim 80 wherein said step of requesting is performed by said user.

83. The method of claim 80 further comprising:

preventing said user from directly accessing a database wherein said desired media item is requested from said database.

84. (New) A method of creating aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming comprising:

collecting a plurality of media clips;

determining a media form of a first media clip wherein said media form is separate from a media content of said first media clip; and

selecting said first media clip based upon said media form for inclusion in said aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming.

85. (New) The method of claim 84 wherein said step of selecting comprises:

providing a template wherein said template specifies functional and aesthetic values desired from media clips to be assembled into said aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming and wherein said template does not specify media content.

86. (New) The method of claim 85 wherein a first aesthetic value is a key of music.

87. (New) The method of claim 85 wherein a first aesthetic value is a tempo of sound.

88. (New) The method of claim 85 wherein a first aesthetic value is a spectral distribution of audio energy.

89. (New) The method of claim 84 further comprising:
including a second media clip and a third media clip in said aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming wherein said second media clip contains audio media only and wherein said third media clip contains video media only.

90. (New) A method of creating media programming comprising:
profiling a viewer;
providing a first plurality of media clips;
concatenating a second plurality of media clips wherein said second plurality is selected from said first plurality to form said media programming; and
presenting said media programming to said viewer.

91. (New) The method of claim 90 further comprising:
receiving a query from said user, wherein said user has access to all of said first plurality of media clips only through an intermediary and wherein said media clips are not presented for browsing or in a list to said viewer; and
selecting said second plurality of media clips from said first plurality of media clips based upon said query.

92. (New) The method of claim 90 wherein said step of profiling comprises:
collecting a viewer history.

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93. (New) A method of creating media programming comprising:
- providing a plurality of media clips;
 - selecting a first media clip and a second media clip;
 - removing a first part of said second media clip;
 - removing a second part of said first media clip;
 - creating a transition between said first media clip and said second media clip; and
 - assembling said first media clip, said transition and said second media clip into said media programming.
94. (New) An aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming creation system comprising:
- a plurality of media clips;
 - a determiner configured to determine a media form of a first media clip wherein said media form is separate from a media content of said first media clip; and
 - a selection unit configured to select said first media clip based upon said media form for inclusion in a aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming.
95. (New) The aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming creation system of claim 94 wherein said step of selection unit comprises:
- a template wherein said template specifies functional and aesthetic values desired from media clips to be assembled into said aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming and wherein said template does not specify media content.
96. (New) The aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming creation system of claim 95 wherein a first aesthetic value is a key of music.

97. (New) The aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming creation system of claim 95 wherein a first aesthetic value is a tempo of sound.

98. (New) The aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming creation system of claim 95 wherein a first aesthetic value is a spectral distribution of audio energy.

99. (New) The aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming creation system of claim 94 further comprising:

an inclusion unit configured to include a second media clip and a third media clip in said aesthetically and structurally appropriate media programming wherein said second media clip contains audio media only and wherein said third media clip contains video media only.

100. (New) A media programming creation unit comprising:

a viewer profiler configured to profile a viewer;

a first plurality of media clips;

a concatenation unit configured to concatenate a second plurality of media clips wherein said second plurality is selected from said first plurality to form said media programming; and

a presentation unit configured to present a media programming to said viewer.

101. (New) The media programming creation unit of claim 100 further comprising:

a query receiving unit configured to receive a query from said user, wherein said user has access to all of said first plurality of media clips only through an intermediary and wherein said media clips are not presented for browsing or in a list to said viewer; and

a selection unit configured to select said second plurality of media clips from said first plurality of media clips based upon said query.

102. (New) The media programming creation unit of claim 100 wherein said viewer profiler comprises:

a collection unit configured to collect a viewer history.

103. (New) A media programming creation unit comprising:

a plurality of media clips;

a selection unit configured to select a first media clip and a second media clip;

a clip dividing unit configured to remove a first part of said second media clip wherein said clip dividing unit is further configured to remove a second part of said first media clip;

a transition creation unit configured to create a transition between said first media clip and said second media clip; and

an assembler configured to assemble said first media clip, said transition and said second media clip into said media programming.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-103 are pending in the present patent application. Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-103 are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that pending claims 1-103 be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

COUDERT BROTHERS LLP

Date: February 28, 2002

By: 

J. D. Harriman II
Reg. No. 31,967

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